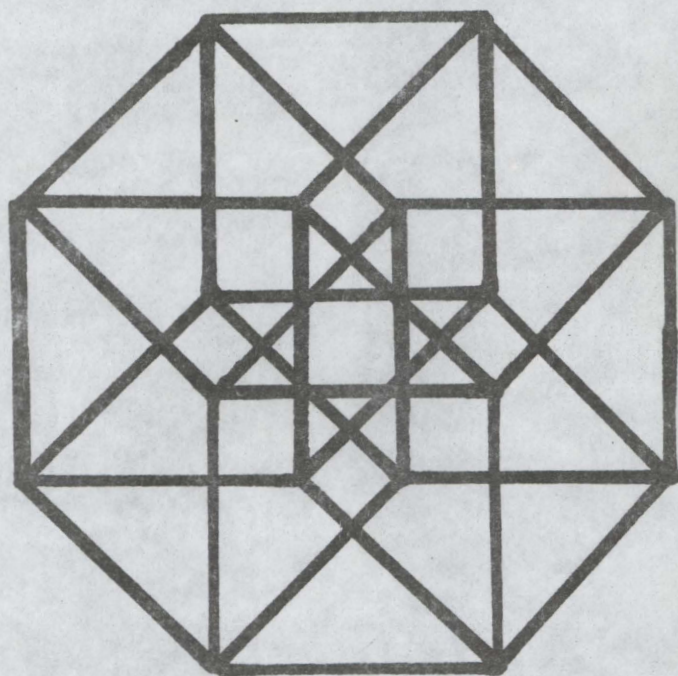


vol. 1 no.2

IRISH UFO NEWS

JULY 1976



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The Irish UFO News is a ufological journal published twice a year by a group associated with the British UFO Research Association's Irish Branch. Availability is not restricted to members of BUFORA and content is intended to be of interest to ufologists in general, specifically those in both parts of Ireland. Details of subscriptions are contained on the back page.

Articles for publication will be welcomed from all sources, as will readers letters and reports. Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual correspondent or of the Editor, BUFORA holds no corporate views on the UFO phenomenon.

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WITH THIS ISSUE

Irish UFO Research Centre Special Investigation Reports.

No.1 The High Intensity 1 Week Flap Period in November 1975.

No.2 The Mrs. Hamilton (Psychic Contactee) Case.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

Due to the important nature of some of the sightings reported in this issue, a special supplement has been prepared. It contains the following photocopied items:

1. Edited transcript of the tape of the second interview with Mrs Hamilton.
2. Photocopies of newspaper articles referred to in Special Investigation Report No.1.
3. Complete photocopy of the original letter referred to in the article 'A New Irish Close Encounter Report'.

Due to the expense of producing this it is not included with each copy of the 'News' (except those supplied to other UFO organisations). The supplement, which is made up of 10 photocopied 8-4 size sheets, is available from John Hind at the Centre's address. The cost is 35p per copy (15p to cover postage and packing and photocopying of 10 sheets at 2p per sheet).

IRISH UFO NEWS

EDITOR; John Hind

BUFORA (Ireland) RIC;
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STOP PRESS*STOP PRESS*STOP PRESS*STOP PRESS*STOP PRESS*STOP PRESS*STOP PRESS*
N.A.S.A.'S VIKING LANDER LANDED SAFELY ON MARS TUES.20TH. SEARCH FOR LIFE IS

EXPECTED TO GIVE PRELIMINARY RESULTS IN ABOUT 1 WEEK. EXCELENT PICTURES RECEIVED;
MARS HAS BLUE SKY! SEE PAGE 3.

EDITORIAL - John Hind

I have tried to keep my editorials as strictly ufological as possible and to keep the administrative problems involved with its production to myself, but in this case I feel that I must break that rule. We have decided that, since the obtention of results must come before their publication (in priority as well as in temporal order), this publication must be able to support its self financially. In addition, since a considerable ammount of work goes into its productoin, it is desirable that it reaches as wide an audience as possible. Taking all the factors into account it has been decided that the best approach is to up-grade the publication, generalise it so that it is of interest to all ufologists and offer it on a sudscrip-tion system to members (of BUFORA) and non-members alike (see back page for details) We hope that all the members of BUFORA(Ireland) will consider the content (if not the spelling) of this journal worth the subscription which we have deliberately set low at 50 pence for two issues. We also hope to attract members of Sky-Skan, (who are offered the same financial concessions) and of the general public to our subscription lists. Although the next issue will not be published untill December we would appreciate subscriptions as soon as possible so that we know were we stand (and before you forget!)

To get all the organisational matters over in one editorial I will deal with another matter regarding contributions (literary) to the 'News'. We would like the 'News' to become a forum for the publication of research and investigation reports from ufologists outside as well as inside BUFORA, and we will consider for publication any articals or papers of general or specific ufological interest from any source. They can be as technical or otherwise as you like provided they are fairly accurate and logically argued. The closing date for copy is the tenth of the month of publication (July and December). We would also like some feedback from our readers in the form of letters for publication. All material for publication should be sent to me at the centre's address to arrive not later than the above dates. (Reports should be sent to the Irish UFO Research Centre)

I hope that you will find the rest of this issue and the two IUFORC special investigation reports interesting.

NEWS AND COMMENT*NEWS AND COMMENT*NEWS AND COMMENT*NEWS AND COMMENT*NEWS AND COMMENT*

UFO RESEARCH - A NEW DIRECTION.

Over thirty years of fairly intensive research into the UFO problem - all be it largely by amateur organisations - could have been expected to have yielded some progress towards providing a solution. However progress is conspicuously lacking - most of us still find difficulty in defining the problem. Part of the reason for this failier must be our unwillingness, or inability to theorise as to the fundamentals of the problems and to test such theories as do exist against the data. We have been rather like Victorian Botanists; happy to collect, catagorise and catalogue, satisfied with clumsy empirical laws rather than seeking a unifying simplicity. However part of the problem undoubtably lies in the nature of the data itself. Many of us have grown to confuse the terms 'UFO' and 'UFO report'. If we wish to show beyond reasonable doubt that the UFO exists separate from the UFO report, outside the mind of the reportee, it may be necessary to aim our research in in an entirely new direction.

It seems to me that progressive ufologists are coming to a realisation that the days of the report form and taperecorder are limited. The work of the traditional investigator is increcingly being supplemented by that of the instrument technician. The exobiologist Carl Sagan said, on American T.V. that persons interested in doing research on UFOs should begin using quality instrumentation in attempting to probe the nature of the phenomenon.

One group doing research of this nature in Britian is the 'Extra-terrestrial Society'. One of their members, David Viewing, presented a paper on their work to the last BUFORA research confreence. Their equipment is basically geared for the detection of interstellar spacecraft of the type hypothisised by the Interplanitary Society's Daedalus project, which works by the repeated explosion of fusion bombs. Such a craft would, of course be inherently unsuitable for operating within a planet's atmosphere. Mr.Viewing took pains to distinguish the 'Starships' that his group is seeking from 'FOs. However, the group has

operated its equipment for several years in the Warminster area. They detected no inexplicable anomalous effects during this period. Unfortunately Mr. Viewing did not make it very clear exactly what parameters their equipment was designed to detect. I may be wrong but from what I can gather from the diagrams the equipment would be unlikely to respond to an ordinary terrestrial aircraft unless it came very close indeed.

One group that it admits that its research is directed towards the detection of UFO's, is an American organisation calling itself Project Starlight International, (PSI), a subsidiary of the "Society for the Understanding of Man", based in Austin, Texas. Despite the ominous sounding title of the parent organisation, PSI seem to be a dedicated, objective and scientific group. In any case they seem to be very well funded, their \$20,000 worth of equipment to modulate a TV picture on to a laser beam, tracking equipment to keep the beam 'locked on' to the target and equipment to detect demodulate and record any response from the UFO-light. This consists of a laser and a Cassegrain telescope with an image intensifier all mounted on a motor driven aiming platform, which is remotely aimed using a closed circuit TV system. The system, along with a slave camera mounted several hundred meters away, can be used to photograph and track unresponsive UFO's. Also at PSI's research site is a very high quality recording magnetometer, capable of responding to frequencies from .1-10Hz. The building containing the laser equipment is surrounded by 100ft. circle of spotlights to attract attention. No details of the pictures transmitted are given, though these presumably include some instruction as to decoding protocol.

Though PSI reports some interesting sightings from its site, no success has yet been achieved with the communication experiment.

* * *

An Irish UFO Research Centre project is currently investigating the possibility of designing and building one or more of the following systems:

- 1) Semi-automatic tracking apparatus for use on skywatches;
- 2) A recording magnetometer with triggering equipment, to energise recorder on magnetic anomalies, and provide triggering signals to other equipment.
- 3) An automatic all-sky camera.

The assistance or advice of anyone with experience in electronics, mechanics, optics or photography would be very much welcomed. The centre will soon have to make the decision whether to go into the field of instrumented UFO research.

Of course there will always be a place for the more traditional investigator; but we must make an attempt to analyse the increasing mountain of data. The prospect of spending the rest of our lives patiently collecting reports in the hope that some day a Darwin will come along to reduce the seeming complexity (or that they will land offering us the opportunity to say 'I told you so' to the rest of the world) seems to me to be futile and naive to say the least.

* * *

NOTES:

1. Published by BUFORA.
The use of analytical instruments in the search for extraterrestrial spacecraft. - David Viewing.
2. Journal of instrumented UFO research; Published by PSI, P.O. Box 5310 Austin, TEXAS.

THE VIKING INVASION OF MARS:- Miles Johnston.

At present there are two VIKING spacecraft in flight. One, VIKING 1, is in orbit, preparing for a landing some time this month, the other, VIKING 2, is in its approach to MARS and should be in orbit by the end of the month. Let us now look in detail into the purposes and functions of the spacecraft.

Viking is the first major attempt to locate extraterrestrial life. Intense scientific study of Mars has revealed that it is possible that Mars has, or has had life. The main function of Viking is the detection of life. The main biological experiments contained in the two identical spacecraft are for the detection of the following functions: photosynthesis, metabolic functions and respiration. In addition there is a molecular analysis section, a seismometer for the detection of 'Marsquakes' and a weather station. All these experiments can be prolonged and activated at any time during the lifetime of the spacecraft's radioisotope batteries.

1. Photosynthesis.

Photosynthesis is one of the basic life sustaining processes used by green plants right from the microscopic scale (such as algae) to the macroscopic (trees, shrubs etc.). A sample of the Martian soil is isolated in a chamber containing radioactively labeled CO_2 . The sample is then incubated, allowing any organisms to utilise the CO_2 in the photosynthesis reaction. The soil is then isolated from the CO_2 and analysed to see if it contains any radioactive carbon. If it does then photosynthesis has taken place, indicative of the presence of plant life in the soil.

2. Metabolic analysis.

This is to see if organisms using non-photosynthetic processes are present. This time an organic, labeled, compound such as sugar is used. If an organism uses the sugar as a food as most Earth non-plant organisms would, CO_2 containing labeled Carbon will be given off.

3. Molecular Analysis.

This is an experiment to analyse the Martian atmosphere and soil. If we know the chemical composition of these we will know what kind of life to expect. The analysis of the atmosphere is carried out in a mass spectrometer, a device which separates the molecules into their component atoms and gives us the mass and relative quantity of each atom.

The soil analysis is a much more complex process, consisting of roasting the sample and analysing the gasses given off.

4. The Lander cameras.

There are two facsimile cameras on Viking. The picture is built up very slowly using a scanning process. The picture is then divided up into thousands of minute regions and the intensity and colour of each region is converted into a binary number which is sent back to earth via the orbiter section of the spacecraft as a digital radio signal. On Earth the picture is reassembled by a computer. The cameras can take panoramic pictures right around the spacecraft or, working together can take 3-D pictures. In the normal mode the cameras are not capable of detecting a creature moving faster than walking pace, however provision has been made to switch to a mode where this is not a problem. NASA doesn't leave any stone unturned!

* * *

During the 700 million kilometer flight from Earth, lasting almost exactly one year both spacecraft developed similar faults in their biological laboratories but these have now been rectified. At present a landing site is being located for the first spacecraft. This must be flat and relatively free of large boulders. In addition it is hoped that the landing site will be near one of the channels that scientists think are dried up water channels. By the time you read this Viking 1 should have landed.

Scientists think that there is a good chance that Viking will find life on Mars, probably of a simple bacterial nature. The consequences of such a find would be far reaching. It would mean that life would have independently on two planets in the one system. As exobiologist Carl Sagan has put it; "Faced with this evidence, many, many people would be prepared to make the grand leap to an inhabited cosmos". It would certainly bring additional stimulus (and funding) to attempts at interstellar communication. From a strictly logical point of view it would make the extraterrestrial hypothesis for UFOs that little bit less improbable.

THE MANNA MACHINE.

A recent article in 'New Scientist' speculates that the 'manna' on which, according to the Bible and other texts, the Children of Israel lived on their forty year trek was produced by a machine provided, perhaps, by a visiting spacecraft. The machine is reconstructed from ancient texts and is shown (theoretically) to be able to produce a protein rich food from a single cell culture. The authors conclude, very tentatively, that the machine may have come from an alien spacecraft (Such a device would be ideal for providing food for the crew of a large spacecraft on a protracted interstellar voyage).

Perhaps the cultist popularity of Von Daniken and his imitators has enabled more scrupulous scientists to be much more daring in their hypothesised solutions to some of these ancient mysteries.

RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION REPORTS.

A NEW IRISH CLOSE ENCOUNTER REPORT : Mark Malony.

Mark Malony, who is a BUFOA member from Dublin, recently recieved a very interesting close encounter report. Unfortunately the report was sent anonomously and does not give the location of the sighting. There is, therefore, no real way that we can follow it up, so we will quote the very lucid description of the event given in the original letter. The incident happened around Christmas 1945 on one of the islands on the west coast of Ireland. The writer is waiting alone on a beach for a boat to take him home:

"A bright flash like a camera being worked with a flash could be seen above the black clouds over the sea. An object about the size of an average sized aeroplane but in the shape of a square underneath, with a silvery metallic dome on top came down with an almighty speed into the sea. There were lights all around the dome which were purple. It stayed on the water for a short period while I, myself, was rivited to the rocks on the beach, both shocked and frightened. All that could be heard comming from the huge object was a constant whirring like a drill. It took off, out of the water, but was just off the water into the air when it came down slowly in the fields behind me, like it had mechanical trouble. Idecided not to investigate because of fear and went to look for a hiding place. I soon discovered that it was closer to me than I thought. I gathered myself behind a load of (word indistinct) bushes and proceeded to watch. It was an amazing sight. It was the biggest vessel I had ever seen, and I should know because I was in the air service during the war. Two cattle were crushed to death underneath the object and there could have been more. The whirring noise continued and then I saw the Dome of the craft sliding up. Two figures emerged from the craft unlike human beings. They had short, square legs but a rather out of proportion body. It's unbelievable but true. They had rubber like suits which were of a black-grey nature. There were more in the craft but I was too taken in by all this that I nearly died of shock. One of them proceeded to walk towards the beach and then an amazing thing happened. He walked right over the water and placed an enormous phial-like object in the water and headed back. It was very quiet at the time, and then my heart almost stopped. A local farmer's dog could be heard barking and running closer to the scene. The space creatures looked startled and fired a red ray of light at one of the cattle some 50ft away which burned him through. He obviously thought the cow was responsible for the noise, but suddenly the dog apeared on the scene and was quickly dealt with. This time he produced a box with lights and antenna and directed it at the dog who stood there barking furiously. This time the dog walked over, got into the box like a hypnotised animal, which (the box) the creature closed and put on board the craft. I crouched motionless, afraid that whoever they were they would do the same to me. Unbelievably they directed a huge scanner, which I have only seen ten years later being used on Earth, at the sky. Out of nowere a fleet of five to six craft flew overhead about 20,000ft. up and headed off towards space. A beam of light was directed around the area like a search light and one of the creatures' heads rotated completely around on a still body following the ray of light. A load of gas smelling smoke came right off the entire area surrounding the craft and they headed towards the hatch of the craft. They elevated themselves off the ground and into the craft as if they were magicians. The last creature to enter the craft looked towards the bushes in my direction. I prepared myself for a run if necessary, but for an instant I thought he was looking at me. I was proved right. He stood staring at my crouched form and raised his two hands in the air, pointing up towards space and waving at me. I was petrified and to my relief he entered the craft. The hatch closed. I think I broke the four minute mile on the run I made to the nearest house"

The anomonous writer goes on to tell how he recounted his story to the

occupant of the house, who tells him that strange lights and marks in the grass in the fields are commonplace in this area and advises him not to report his sighting for fear of ridicule.

After that most of you are probably in need of a good LITS report to bring you back to the realitys of everyday life! However, the more experienced investigators among you will recognise this as not far from the steriotype of the class 'close encounters with occupants'. If it was not for the fact that there are on record probably several hundred encounters like this one we would have to file it as a hoax. It is a pity that the witness in this case chose to report the sighting in the way that he did; it makes it quite impossible to come to a reasonable assesment of the probability.

A HISTORICAL SIGHTING FROM IRELAND — Edward Downey

The following report is quoted by Jaques Valee in his 'Pasport to Magonia' from the contempory chronaclers Drake and Wilkin. It dates from about 1211 A.D.

'There happened in the borough of Cloera, one Sunday, while the people were at Mass, a marvel. In this town is a church dedicated to St. Kenerus. It befel that an anchor was dropped from the sky, with a rope attached to it, and one of the flukes caught in the arch above the door. The people rushed out of the church and saw in the sky, a ship with men on board, floating before the anchor cable, and they saw a man leap overboard and jump down to the anchor, as if to release it. He looked as if he were swimming in water. The town folk rushed up and tried to seize him; but the Bishop forbade the people to hold the man, for it might kill him, he said. The man was freed, and hurried up to the ship, where the crew cut the rope and the ship sailed out of sight.'

ANATOMY OF A FLAP — John Hind.

The recient UFO 'flap' (Nov 1975)¹ has prompted me to do some thinking as to the true reason for the tendency of the UFO phenomenon to manifest it's self in short, concentrated flap periods. If we look at some of the UFO literature we can see that two distinct types of flap periods are identifiabile; the short, sharp, geographically localised variety lasting only one or two weeks, and the much longer, less well defined and generally variable in geographical locality type which are usually only apparent on later statistical analysis. The latter type is generally defined over a period of months or years. The first type, which seems to be the sort of phenomenon that we experienced in November, is the sort that I am interested in in this article.

It is a fundimental error made by many UFO researchers that because they find it necessary, or desireable, to hypothisise the existance of some kind of alien force to explain some of the UFO reports, that this then becomes the universal panacea and can be used to explain enigmatic features of any UFO report or group of reports. This is very naive and non-productive, there are other kinds of explanation and these must be tested for fit first. This is my first point - in the interests of consistancy data obtained during a flap period must be treated on an individual basis and jugded using exactly the same cryteria as is used to judge any other reports. It is a mistake - and an all to frequent one - to assign a higer S-P index to a report because it seems to be a part of a flap pattern than would have been assigned otherwise. It is my belief that it is thie tendency that has pointed researchers

- CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE

PLEASE NOTE

The title was omitd from Special Investigation Report No1. This should be as follows; "The High Density Flap Period in November 1975"

Due to lack of space acknowledgements were also left out. We would like to thank the following for their help in preparing that report:-

James Knox and David Osbourne, BUFORA investigators.

Mark O'Niel, of the BBC.

The headmaster of Donahadee Secondary School.

The R.U.C.

And all the witnesses who reported sightings to us during the flap period.

towards a physical rather than a sociological explanation for the short period, high density flaps.

I am going to advance the hypothesis that many of these short period flaps are not due to any major increase in objects or phenomena sighted but to an increase in the number of sightings reported. It is not relevant to my analysis whether the objects or phenomena sighted are misinterpretations of accepted phenomena or whether they represent genuinely new phenomena.

We should notice the following points from the data on the November flap.¹

1. The reports do not have a significantly higher mean S-P rating² than a comparable sample selected from any non-flap period.

2. The part played by the media in bringing the reports rapidly to the public attention and the evidence that they exaggerated both the numbers and the claims of the reportees.

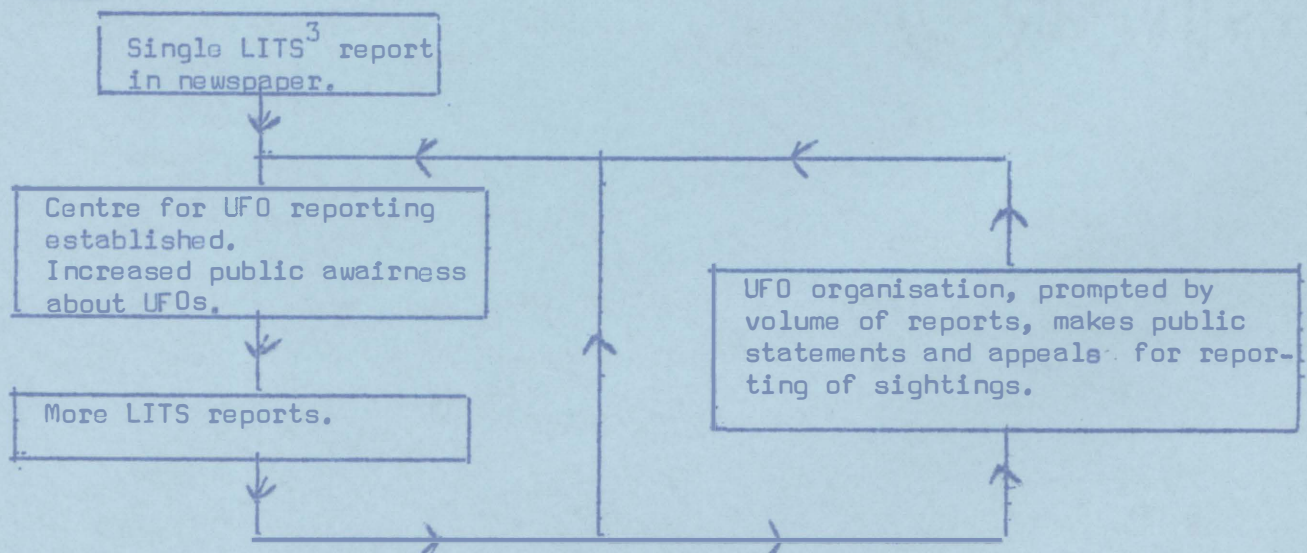
3. The part played by ourselves in asking that the public report events to us.

If the flap had been due to an actual increase in the activity of some hypothetical alien intelligences we could expect not only an increase in the volume of reports but also a significant increase in the S-P rating of these reports.

In my model this type of flap is started by one person (or maybe by coincidence two people individually) reporting a UFO sighting to a particular entity of the media, in this particular case a newspaper. Two things are then achieved, firstly a centre is established to which UFO sightings can be reported and secondly a greater cross-section of the public becomes aware that it is possible to see UFOs. Suppose that in this climate someone does see something in the sky. Probably under normal circumstances, while unable to explain the sighting he would have assumed that there was a normal explanation and let it rest at that. But he knows that other ordinary people - just like himself - are seeing strange things in the sky, possibly he thinks to himself, 'well just suppose that was one of those UFO things?' He reports his sighting, and having made up his mind that it was a UFO he describes it in terms applicable to a description of a UFO. Further more it is in the interests of the Newspaper to play on the strange aspects of the sighting, it makes a better story that way. So the next evening the newspaper prints a longer article, with more sightings and a bigger headline. More people see it and so the process goes on. Eventually people are actually going out and really looking at the sky, possibly for the first time in their lives. It is not surprising that in these circumstances the most ordinary phenomenon, helicopters, Venus, satellites etc. get described in the most extraordinary terms.

Fig 1 shows a plot of my model of the flap situation.

FIG 1.



We can see that the situation is made worse by the presence of a UFO organisation, like ourselves, investigating the reports! It's a kind of vicious circle (more technically, positive feedback) where reports themselves generate more

reports either until the supply of suitable reportees runs out or the newspaper tires of printing the reports. Obviously wheather a flap of this nature developes from a single initial report depends on a complex set of sociological factors. The point is that, observationally, it seems that it sometimes does.

What lessons can be learned then? Firstly UFO reports received during a flap period should be treated with care, but their final S-P rateing, in the interests of consistancy, should not reflect the fact that the report was received during a flap. Secondly a UFO organisation investigating a flap should take great care not to participate in the precipitation of that flap. A case could be made out for the declaration of official 'flap' periods during which UFO investigators would be instructed to keep a low profile. Investigation of 'flap' period data could then proceed after the flap. Exceptions would, of course have to be made in the event of a particularly interesting report. While this approach might lose us some valuable data it would offer an oppertunity to study a 'flap' in it's 'natural setting'. It should be the first concern of any experimentalist that the presence of his experiment does not alter the data that he is trying to obtain in an unpredictable manner. Finally we should learn that other solutions for particular aspects of the UFO phenomenon should be attempted before we envoke the universal catch-all of the E-T hypothesis or its analogues.

- NOTES: 1. IUFORC Special Investigation Report No.2 , J Hind and M Johnston.
2. S-P rateing. The mean of the strangeness and probability rataings.

$$S-P = \frac{S+P}{2}$$

3. LITS. Light in the sky.

UFOs AND SECRECY — Miles Johnston

It is a part of the UFO genre that the worlds governments know a lot more about UFOs than they are willing to admit. Some writers have claimed that this knowledge extends even to certainty about their origins, missions and methods. (It is my belief that it is valid to talk of an animate 'they' in this case).

The world in which we live is unfortunatly becoming a vastly more militent and dangerous place. 'Big' technology has increased the military 'smacking power' of the super powers to the extent were we live in a dangerous stalemate. At the same time 'small' weapons technology has fueled and elevated petty squbbles within the emerging nations to a dangerous level as well as enabling terrorism to become the dangerous and frightening phenomenon that it has.

The stalemate reached by the superpowers is an unstable one. Each side is trying to build bigger and 'better' weapons quicker than the others. This is consuming an ever increasing portion of the worlds resources. If one side was suddenly to have something that the others did'nt then that side would have tremendous power. No government wants to disclose information which has potential military value. This is were the UFOs come in. Obviously detailed information about an advanced technology could produce a quantum leap in a country's military capability. This I hope shows that a benevolent alien would not come down, land and announce his presence. If an alien was to come down and say 'take me to your leader' the chances are that the leader would'nt tell anyone about it. He has a great many reasons not to. No Superiour Intellegence in it's right mind is going to spill any of it's advanced technological knowlege to the inhabitants of a planet in such an unstable state.

George Ward has expressed the opinion that if a message were ever recieved from an advanced civilisation (he had in mind a radio message) it would not be disclosed. "In this sad world that we have put together at present, every possibility of technological advance is being watched from moment to moment for it's possible military exploitation. If such a transmission ever began to be recieved it would be put under the strictest military secrecy provisions that could be imagined". Antony Hewish is one man who has been forced to consider how to release the information that an intellegent signal is being recieved from space. In the 60s he picked up a radio signal from space that had such regularity that he was forced to consider the possibility that it was an intellegent signal. Here is what he has to say about the problem: "When you really know that it is intellegent and have good evidence for this it becomes rather more than a scientific result that you publish in the normal way, it is Galictic Politics, or something. I think it would tear the world to pieces to have a situation were some power

suddenly had access to a flow of information from somewhere else. It would make an enormous impact, and a very bad one I am sure, on communal life on the Earth" The regular signal turned out to have a natural origin.....this time.

I hope that I have shown some of the reasons why governments keep UFO data secret, but more important it should now be clear why UFOs might not wish to come out in the open.

BUFORA NEWS — Miles Johnston (BUFORA Ireland R.I.C.)

After a years experience in co-ordinating BUFORA's investigation effort in Ireland I have decided that a slight re-organisation is necessary. I would like to see members forming together into small, local investigation groups. These would ideally have a single address with a phone number which could be locally publicised as a reception point for UFO reports. I can help with the administration work including production of publicity materials.

There is a possibility of having two fairly large centres in Belfast and Dublin. Already we are operating one master centre in Belfast which at present is accepting reports from anywhere in Ireland and investigating them itself or delegating investigation to BUFORA area investigators. This centre, which we have called the 'Irish UFO Research Centre' has a permanent address and telephone number. (The telephone is manned most evenings by John Hind.) The centre is run by the BUFORA Ireland branch, and intends to hold regular meetings and undertake UFO research as well as investigations. Projects envisaged include research on UFO data, instrumented UFO research and the setting up of a mobile investigation team capable of fast response. Membership of the centre will be informal and not restricted to BUFORA members. Persons interested in helping run the centre and taking part in it's projects, and who are able to attend regular meetings in the Belfast area, are urgently asked to contact John Hind at the centre's address. (NOTE: The centre will not be operational until 22nd August - please direct all enquiries to me at The Demesne, Lurgan until then) You can see some evidence of the intended approach of the centre, which at present is badly under manned, in this issue; in-depth investigation of high S-P sightings, making available detailed reports on them, and positive research in other directions as well. We think that a small group of dedicated researchers can achieve more than the present large, sprawling organisations, however in the investigations field, individual investigators, widely dispersed are still very important.

* * *

We have at last established good relations with the other major UFO organisation in Ireland, Sky-Skan, which is based in Dublin and operates mainly in the Republic. At a meeting with them in Dublin last Febuary we had a very useful discussion and agreed to an exchange of all published material and detailed reports on all sighting investigations. In addition we agreed to co-operation on skywatches and already some of our Dublin members have taken part in Sky-Skan watches. In future it is very much hoped to be able to co-ordinate dates of watches in order to hold multi-station skywatches, though, of course the usefulness of this depends on full reports from each site being exchanged. We look forward to greater co-operation with Sky-Skan in the future; while our approach may be slightly different our aims are very much similar.

* * *

As a major project towards improving the quality of data obtained on skywatches John Hind is currently investigating the design of a semi-automatic tracking device. This highly useful piece of equipment makes extensive use of the modern digital electronic technology used in computers and should provide, for any areal object the following:

1. Series of colour photographs
2. True hight and distance of object.
3. True dimensions of object.
4. True velocty of object.
5. Recorded details of any metamorphosis or maneuvering of object.

John is looking for people with relevent experience to help him in the design stage and when this is complete we will be looking for people to help with it's construction and operation.

* * *

In order to keep in touch with ufology on a national and international scale we are trying to get individual members of our organisation to join other organisations as well. In addition to my BUFORA membership, I am also a member

of Contact UK and as an organisation we have joined NUFON (Northern UFO Network). NUFON is a co-ordination organisation for the research work of UFO organisations in the North of England, and it's useful publication, The Northern UFO News, keeps us in touch with developments in England and gives us an outlet for our research there. (You may have seen a brief piece about our investigation of the Mrs. Hamilton case in BUFORA Journal, this was originally published in the Northern UFO News.) All our reports are submitted to NUFON, Contact and BUFORA. In addition both John Hind and myself subscribe to 'Flying Saucer Review' which keeps us in touch with events on a world scale.

* * *

I would like to welcome the following new members to BUFORA (Ireland); Tom Higgins, from Co. Kildare; Barry O'Hara from Lurgan; Peter Boyd from Helen's Bay, Co. Down; Kenneth Hunter from Belmont, Belfast; Philip Day from Belfast; and Tommy Cullen from Dunmurry.

BUFORA DUBLIN NEWS — Chris Gaffney.

The situation in Dublin has changed greatly since my last report. It seems that Contact (Eire) has folded, but we have established an excellent basis for co-operation with our friends in Sky-Skan.

I would like to see greater co-operation amongst all members in the Dublin area. We have got our first active member in the country - Tom Higgins - and I hope that he will be able to deal with operations in his area. In Dublin we seem to have gained and lost active members, some of the members that I was in touch with at Christmas seem to have vanished, but to remedy this new members - D. McConnell and Tony Cervi - have come along.

We had our first active operation with any other organisation to date. This was the joint Sky-Skan/ BUFORA (Ireland) skywatch on the Sugar Loaf mountain North of Dublin, on Saturday 29th May. We didn't see anything of interest all night, but it was a great step forward. The two organisations were interchangeable on the night and I hope that on future skywatches the situation will be similar. I try to attend most of Sky-Skan's meetings which are held fortnightly and are very interesting. They are well organised, with twenty seven members, and are hopeful of gaining more since their chairman, Mr O'Donohue's radio interviews.

To get back to ourselves, I would like to see each member given an area within which it would be up to him to deal with any sightings. I would also like to see our members in the country getting in touch with each other to make the branch operate more efficiently. If there are any members in Dublin who would like report forms etc. please contact me and I will deal with it.

NOTE:

Chris Gaffney's address is:

3 Hazelwood Park,
Artane,
Dublin 5.

INVESTIGATIONS*SIGHTING INVESTIGATIONS*SIGHTING INVESTIGATIONS*SIGHTING INVESTIGATIONS

MODIFICATIONS TO THE SIGHTING WEIGHTING SCHEME

The statistical weighting system that we used on reports N-1 to N-25 in the last issue is at present under review. The system is based on two indices, probability, which is defined as the probability that the reportee is describing, with tolerable accuracy, an actual event and strangeness, which is a measure of the extent to which items or aspects of the sighting are inexplicable without postulating explanations that are new to science. Probability is basically the reliability of the report and strangeness is its inexplicability. This method was adapted from Hynek's system in which the ratings are assigned subjectively.

Unfortunately an error occurred in drafting the last issue and the Probability scale became inverted. Probability of 0 represents certainty that the report is false and probability of 10 represents certainty that it is accurate. By definition probabilities of 0 and 10 cannot be assigned. If it is desired to correct the probabilities in the last issue (those in this issue are correct) apply the formula:

$P_n = 10 - P_o$ Where P_n = New probability, P_o = old probability.

However at present research is going on into how to assign these ratings on a more objective basis and when this is complete it may be necessary to reassign ratings for these reports.

REPORT SUMMERIES

N-26

DATE: Summer 1974.

WITNESS: T. Cullen, age 15

DETAILS OF SIGHTING:

Witness was on holiday in Bundoran, Co. Donegal, observation timed about 01.00 hrs. A circular white object with a grey centre about the apparent size of the full moon was observed moving SE to the west of the observer. It was at an elevation of about 45° and was observed for about 10 seconds before disappearing into the distance.

EVALUATION: Unknown.

PROBABILITY: 3 STRANGENESS: 3

N-27

DATE: 29th September 1975.

WITNESS: Mr V P Carter and about a dozen children.

DETAILS OF SIGHTING:

At about 18.35hrs. a small, white, round object was brought to Mr Carter's attention by some children. It was in a NW direction and seemed to be drifting. Mr Carter observed the object through a 2½in refractor telescope and could discern that the object had a well defined outline and there seemed to be a smaller object composed of two cones joined base to base suspended under it.

EVALUATION: Balloon, probably weather.

PROBABILITY: 4 STRANGENESS: 1

N-28

DATE: 20th Nov. 1975

WITNESS: Edward Mulhern.

DETAILS OF SIGHTING:

Witness was walking in the Ravenhill Road, Belfast at about 18.30hrs when he spotted three small, white lights in the sky forming an equilateral triangle at an elevation of about 60° south of his position. The objects were stationary and silent. After about 1 minute the objects began to move, slowly at first then accelerating to a very high speed disappearing after 30secs. During all this they held perfect formation.

EVALUATION: Unknown.

PROBABILITY: 3 STRANGENESS: 4

N-29

DATE: 25 November 1975.

WITNESS: Michael Duffy and Mr. Adams.

DETAILS OF SIGHTING:

Witnesses were on the grounds of St. Louises Comprehensive School at about 18.10hrs. They observed three objects, all point sources, two white and one red, in a line. They were too far apart to be aircraft lights. They were observed for about 2½ minutes. They were moving, fast, in a N-S direction SW of the observers.

EVALUATION. Pos. Helicopters.

PROBABILITY: 4 STRANGENESS: 3

OTHER INVESTIGATED SIGHTINGS: 3 Helicopters, 1 other aircraft, 1 parachute flare.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

It has been decided that BUFORA (Ireland) can no longer support the 'News' financially. For this issue only, non-BUFORA members will be charged 20pence. BUFORA members will get this issue free. Copys can be purchased at the above price from:-

JOHN HIND (Editor)
19 Cairnshill Avenue,
Belfast BT8 4NR.

OR

CHRIS GAFFNEY (BUFORA Ireland)
3 Hazelwood Park,
Artane, Dublin 5.

Future issues of the 'News' will be available either by direct purchase at a charge of 30p or by subscription at a price of 60p for two issues. Members of BUFORA, Sky-Skan or a NUFON group are offered subscriptions at a special low rate of 50p for two issues. All these prices include postage to anywhere in the United Kingdom and Eire as well as Special Investigations Reports. Starting with the next issue, the 'News' will be published entirely separately from BUFORA (Ireland) and will contain articles of interest to (and it is hoped, by) ufologists in general. It will be published on a regular basis, twice a year, in December and July. Future issues will be of the same general size and format as this issue.

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